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Monday, December 21, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

SCORING BIG IN HOLLYWOOD

Gugu Mbatha-Raw learns all about football. 20

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Can rookies save Philly's sports franchises? 25

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SEASONS HEATINGS!

Record high temperatures expected for Christmas Eve. 4

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

1 RUSSIAN AIRSTRIKES

Airstrikes believed to have been carried out by Russian warplanes killed scores of people in the center of the rebel-held city of Idlib in northwest Syria on Sunday, rescue workers and residents said. They said at least six strikes had hit a busy market place in the heart of the city, several government buildings and residential areas. REUTERS

2 US EMBASSY WARNING

The United States embassy in Tunisia has warned its citizens to avoid a major shopping mall in the capital Tunis on Sunday because of a reported threat of a potential militant attack there. Tunisia is under a state of emergency following a suicide bomb attack on a presidential guard bus in Tunis last month. That followed two major militant gun attacks on a Tunis museum and a beach hotel targeting foreign tourists.
REUTERS

3 NFL CONCUSSION DEBATE

The film "Concussion," tracing a forensic pathologist's quest to expose the truth about brain injuries in the NFL, casts a spotlight on an issue that has roiled the NFL. The movie also may give parents pause, according to the filmmakers and some former players, about allowing their sons to play the violent sport of football. REUTERS

7 HAT DAY

Members of the Avalon String Band marched down 2nd Street in South Philly on Kazoo Day, also known as Hat Day and Drunken Santa Day, which is the last Sunday of rehearsals before the Mummers Day Parade on Jan. 1.

MAIN PHOTOS BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

4 MAN SHOT IN HOSPITAL

A Los Angeles police officer on Saturday fatally shot a man who officials said was reaching for a policeman's gun inside a Torrance, California, hospital. Witnesses reported the man as being calm and cooperative until the hospital was ready to release him, at which point he allegedly attacked officers. REUTERS

5 'REAL HOUSEWIVES' STAR

A star of the "Real Housewives of New Jersey" reality TV show who last year pleaded guilty to bankruptcy fraud is due to be released from prison this week, local media reported on Sunday. Teresa Giudice, 43, pleaded guilty in March 2014 to charges related to hiding income to maintain her lavish lifestyle, portrayed on the Bravo channel program that shows her and her husband living in luxury. She is due to be released on Wednesday from the low-security federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut. REUTERS

6 McNABB OUT OF JAIL

Former Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was recently released from jail after serving a brief sentence for DUI in Arizona, reports said. McNabb served 18 days in jail in Arizona for rear-ending another car while it was waiting at a red light, and was released Friday, Bleacherreport.com reported. SAM NEWHOUSE

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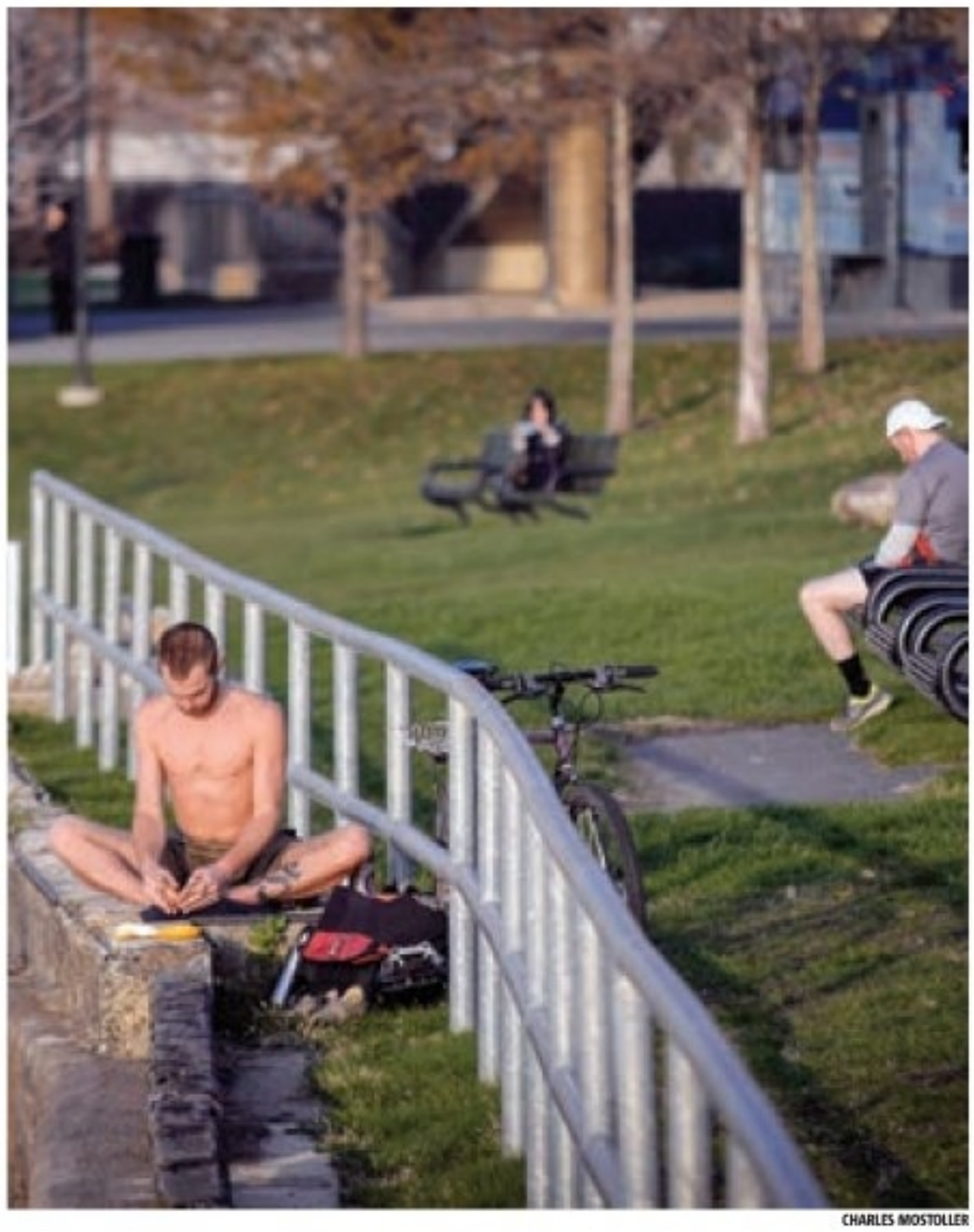

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Record high temps for Christmas Eve

The unusually warm December in Philadelphia will conclude with record-breaking highs.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

Despite some recent cold weather, the rest of December is going to continue the trend of unusually high temperatures that Philadelphia has seen this year.

One record-breaking high forecasters are predicting is 73 degrees on Christmas Eve in Philly.

"That would break the record by quite a bit," said Mitchell Gaines, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

That would be record-breaking high for that day in this region, currently held by 64-degree Christmas Eves in 2014 and 1980. It also would tie the record for warmest December day when the mercury hit 73 degrees on both Dec. 4 and 7 of 1998.

> *"That would break the record by quite a bit."*
>
> Gaines, on predicted Christmas Eve temps

Temperatues on Dec. 23 are projected to reach 66 degrees, which would tie the record of that date set in 1990.

In the immediately approaching week, Gaines said locals can expect to see temperatures increase by approximately five degrees a day leading up to Christmas. Christmas Day will be a bit cooler than the day before, forecast to have a high in the 60s.

The bizarrely warm weather is believed to be caused in part by the Pacific weather system by El Niño.

"We do have a strong El Niño in progress," Gaines said. "It is one of the drivers. The polar vortex is in a very strong state over the North Pole right now, which is the opposite of what we saw in the middle to later stages of last winter."

However, others believe that manmade climate change has accentuated El Niño's effects by changing the jet stream.

Cold weather isn't expected to take hold at least until January, and forecasters are saying February and March will be when the real winter season begins.

The blimp is seen floating over Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, after it became detached.
RHAME EYER (LEFT) AND SUSAN SWITZER (RIGHT)/COURTESY OF LEBANON DAILY NEWS

Runaway blimp loses funding

The runaway blimp from October 2015 is part of a program that recently lost a significant portion of its funding.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The high-tech military blimp that became unmoored and created a path of damage through Pennsylvania may soon be deflated for good after its federal funding was cut in the new U.S. budget.

The blimp, designed to operate as part of an advanced radar system, became a national laughingstock after its float through the countryside in October, was created by the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS).

The new federal reduces the program's funding to $10 million, $30 million less than was asked for by President Obama, CBS reported.

GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee famously blasted the blimp in a debate: "What we had was something the government made — basically a bag of gas — that cut loose, destroyed everything in its path, left thousands of people powerless, but they couldn't get rid of it because we had too much money invested in it. So, we had to keep it. That is our government today. We saw it in a blimp."

The JLENS blimp detached from Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland in October and floated into Pennsylvania, dragging a 6,700-foot tether.

Approximately 30,000 people lost power as the tether ripped through power lines, before it eventually landed in the rural area of Montour County.

The blimp is part of an experimental radar program started in 1998, which has been criticized as a boondoggle.

The Maryland blimp was reportedly designed to detect cruise missile attacks on the Washington, D.C., region and provides a 340-mile over-the-horizon view of incoming air traffic.

Braving the cold for the Birds

Eagles fans braved the cold to tailgate in FDR Park ahead of Sunday's evening Eagles game against the Cardinals at Lincoln Financial Field in South Philly on Sunday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Help Metro make magic

Please donate to the Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2015 holiday season.

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor-in-chief. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system. Your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

METRO

3 dead in crash

Three women died after their car crashed into a pesticide truck in Northeast Philadelphia, police said.

The fiery crash early Sunday led to calls for police hazmat crews being sent to the scene, reports said.

The women died after their black Chevy Camaro — traveling at a high rate of speed — crashed into a tractor-trailer on the 8100 block of Torresdale Avenue near Pennypack Creek around 2:45 a.m., Philly.com reported.

The Fire Department sent a hazmat team to the scene, because both vehicles became engulfed in flames and the tractor-trailer contained pesticides.

Another nearby tractor-trailer caught fire after the crash as well.

Both trucks were unoccupied at the time of the crash.

There were no other injuries reported and no public risks from the pesticide fire was reported. SAM NEWHOUSE

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Left-wing parties take lead in Spain elections

Spain's ruling conservative Popular Party won the most seats in parliament in a general election today but lost its absolute majority, partial results showed with over 80 percent of votes counted.

Left-wing parties are close to winning an absolute majority of parliamentary seats in Spain's general election Sunday, preliminary results showed, likely scuppering Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's chances of winning a second term for the People's Party (PP).

Despite garnering the most votes, the center-right PP had its worst result ever in a general election as Spaniards hurt by a grinding recession and yet to feel an economic recovery turned away from the party in droves.

Anti-austerity Podemos roared into third place, outpacing fellow newcomer Ciudadanos whose market-friendly policies had been seen as a natural fit for a PP coalition.

Podemos' unexpected surge tipped the balance to the left of the political spectrum with five left-wing parties led by the opposition Socialists and Podemos together garnering 175 seats, just one seat below the 176 needed for a majority.

Such an alliance will however not be easy to agree on as some of these groups differ on economic policy or on the degree of autonomy that Catalonia should enjoy.

"The situation is highly complicated, I don't see an easy outcome," said Ignacio Jurado, politics professor at York University.

"The PP will be the first to try and form a coalition but the left-wing bloc has more chances because they add up to more seats," he also said.

The uncertainty casts a pall over an economic reform program that has helped pull Spain — the fifth-largest economy in the European Union — out of recession and dented a still sky-high unemployment rate.

"This result confirms Spain has entered an era of political fragmentation," said Teneo Intelligence analyst Antonio Barroso. "The key question is whether there will be a coalition of parties against Rajoy."

A minority PP government would be technically possible but unlikely due to the strong left-wing vote, as would be a grand coalition between the PP and the Socialists, which both parties vehemently ruled out during campaigning.

At the PP headquarters in central Madrid, a party spokesman said it was clear the party had won the most votes but that the night was not over. A few dozen supporters gathered, waiting for Rajoy's appearance, some waving red and yellow Spanish flags.

"I don't understand, it's very unfair," said Marta de Alfonso Molero, a 48-year-old chemist who has voted PP all her life, speaking of the poor showing for the party. "They have dragged Spain up these last four years."

Hundreds of mostly young supporters for Podemos gathered in central Madrid in a party atmosphere, holding purple balloons, the color of the barely two-year-old party.

REUTERS

Left-wing party Podemos leader and candidate for the election, Pablo Iglesias, center, speaks at the Goya Theatre after the results of Spain's general election in Madrid on Sunday. REUTERS

"The two-party system is over and we are entering a new era in our country."

Party deputy Inigo Errejon

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More colleges seek exemption from LGBT anti-bias rules

The group called for a more public process, saying the department should publish a yearly report on colleges that seek exemptions and oblige schools to inform students about the waivers. GETTY IMAGES

A growing number of U.S. universities are seeking religious exemptions from civil rights laws barring discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, according to a report by LGBT advocacy group Human Rights Campaign.

The group called on the Department of Education to make the exemption process more public so that students could know they might suffer discrimination at schools they choose to attend.

Colleges controlled by religious groups are allowed to ask for exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which bans sex discrimination for programs that get federal funds, but recently has been used to protect gay and transgender students from discrimination.

Human Rights Campaign said 43 schools sought the exemption in 2015, up from a single school in 2013. Of 56 requests for exemptions in total, 33 schools are now allowed to discriminate on the basis of gender identity and 23 schools on the basis of sexual orientation, the group said. It said the exemptions allow colleges to discriminate in areas such as admissions, sports programs, housing and financial aid.

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education has granted the exemptions to schools that operate under statements of faith and religious tenets stating that marriage is between one man and one woman, and that gender is assigned by God, according to official letters copied in the group's report.

According to the report, schools such as George Fox University, California Baptist University, Grace University and Pepperdine University have used waivers to refuse to house transgender students in dorms of their gender identity, to expel gay students, to demand lesbian students return aid money, and to refuse to acknowledge transgender students' gender identity. REUTERS

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Clinton backs Obama's Islamic State strategy in Democratic debate

The debate was the Democrats' first since the deadly Dec. 2 attack by a pair of radicalized Muslims in San Bernardino, California, which along with the November attacks in Paris elevated national security to the top of the campaign agenda.

Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

"We could get rid of Assad tomorrow, but that would create another political vacuum that would benefit ISIS."

Sanders

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton backed elements of President Barack Obama's strategy to fight Islamic State militants in a debate on Saturday, drawing criticism from all sides for saying "we now finally are where we need to be" in Syria.

Top rival Bernie Sanders accused Clinton of being too quick to push for regime change, while Republican candidate Carly Fiorina, said the former secretary of state was too willing to cede U.S. policy to other countries.

Obama has relied heavily on U.S. air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq, and has deployed dozens of special operations troops to northern Syria to advise opposition forces. In Iraq, about 3,500 U.S. troops are assisting Iraqi forces.

Like Obama, Clinton backs the use of special forces but says a large deployment of U.S. ground forces in the Middle East would be counterproductive.

"We now finally are where we need to be. We have a strategy and a commitment to go after ISIS," she said, noting a U.N. Security Council resolution had brought "the world together to go after a political transition in Syria."

That drew a quick response from Republican candidates, who seized the opportunity to tie Clinton to a Syria strategy that has yielded few tangible gains to date.

Fiorina, a former technology executive, said Clinton is too willing to rely on U.N resolutions rather than acting unilaterally. "It's what 'leading from behind' is, I guess," she said on "Fox News Sunday."

"No, Hillary Clinton, we are not 'where we need to be' in fight against ISIS," former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush wrote on Twitter during the debate. Hours later, his campaign released a video contrasting her comments with TV footage of the San Bernardino and Paris attacks.

Attacking from the other side, Sanders said the United States should focus on defeating Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, rather than also trying to remove Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from power.

Since the start of the conflict in 2011, the Obama administration has applied diplomatic pressure to push Assad out of office but has stopped short of military attacks against his regime. REUTERS

Trump, Sanders say US should not try to topple dictators

Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump said separately on Sunday that the United States should not try to topple dictators such as Syria's Bashar al-Assad, highlighting a skepticism over foreign wars that transcends party lines.

Both candidates said the Middle East would be less tumultuous today if Libya's Moammar Gadhafiand Iraq's Saddam Hussein were still in charge, arguing that the United States faces a greater threat from Islamic State and other extremist groups that have flourished in their wake.

"The region would be much more stable" with Gadhafi, Hussein and Assad in place, Sanders, a Democrat, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"One hundred percent — is there even a doubt in your mind?" Trump, the Republican frontrunner, said in a separate interview on the same show.

Though they agree on little else, both the Democratic challenger and Trump appeal to voters who view the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a mistake and are leery of getting too deeply involved in the region.

Sanders, seeking to bite into front-runner Hillary Clinton's big lead in the November 2016 Democratic White House race just six weeks before the first nominating contest in Iowa, has criticized her for being too quick to intervene in the Middle East. REUTERS

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

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'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' smashes box office record

An Imperial stormtrooper cosplayer from The Twin Suns Star Wars Club looks on as a Darth Vader cosplayer serves popcorn to fans on opening night of Walt Disney Pictures And Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" at the Brenden Theatres inside Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. GETTY IMAGES

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" shattered the domestic box office record with an estimated $238 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales through Sunday, a staggering debut that re-established the celebrated space saga as a global phenomenon under Walt Disney Co.

The first "Star Wars" film in a decade took in a total of $517 million at box offices around the world, second only to the dinosaur film "Jurassic World," which had the benefit of an opening weekend that included China, where "Force Awakens" won't open for weeks.

Financial and critical success for the film mark a victory for Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger's strategy of acquiring proven brands, including Pixar Animation and comic book powerhouse Marvel, to fuel Disney's entertainment empire.

Disney purchased "Star Wars" producer Lucasfilm for $4 billion in 2012 and is betting that big-budget films can draw customers even as viewers gravitate to online streaming and mobile viewing and theater attendance declines.

Over the weekend, fans reveled in the chance to visit the "Star Wars" galaxy for the first time in a decade. Filmgoers dressed as Jedi or Sith, carried lightsabers and cheered when classic characters such as Princess Leia or Chewbacca appeared on screen. Theaters added showtimes to meet demand, Disney said.

"Jurassic World" opened in June with $208.8 million in the United States and Canada and a take of $525 million worldwide.

"Force Awakens" is the seventh installment in the epic science-fiction franchise created by George Lucas in 1977.

Disney plans four "Star Wars" movies through 2019, plus major expansions at its U.S. theme parks to incorporate the droids, spaceships and otherworldly creatures of the universe Lucas invented. "Force Awakens" toys, clothing, home accessories and video games already pervade stores ahead of Christmas.

Nostalgia, plus a carefully planned, months-long release of film trailers and character profiles boosted interest. Disney, which spent more than $200 million to make "Force Awakens," also created intrigue by keeping the plot largely secret.

Critics lauded the movie's throwback feel, doses of humor and the performances of newcomers Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Oscar Isaac. Audiences awarded an "A" grade in polling by survey firm CinemaScore.

Disney took steps to attract more women and girls to the series, including casting Ridley as the star and running commercials during shows such as "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." Forty-two percent of the weekend's domestic audience was female, Disney said.

"Force Awakens" could become the highest-grossing movie of all time, box office analysts said. "Avatar" now holds that title with $2.8 billion in global sales.

The wild card is China, the world's second-largest movie market, where "Force Awakens" opens Jan. 9. The last "Star Wars" movie in 2005 collected just $9 million there. Disney made an effort to build buzz, placing 500 miniature Stormtroopers at the Great Wall and striking a deal to stream the six earlier "Star Wars" films through video service Tencent. REUTERS

Kathy and Mark Hyatt's house decorated with holiday lights in Plantation, Florida. YOUTUBE

Florida family's holiday lights frazzle neighbors

When it comes to holiday decorations, Kathy and Mark Hyatt go to extremes.

In December, they transform their home in Plantation, Florida, into a 200,000-light spectacle, with Santas, reindeer and candy canes blanketing the lawn, snowflakes and angels twinkling in the sky, and a sign over the garage beckoning visitors to "Believe in the Magic of Christmas."

The reaction of some neighbors and their city? Bah humbug!

"This is a war zone, all because of the ego of that guy," said neighbor Rafael Imbert, 65, who erects a plastic construction fence to keep the thousands of sightseers lured by the lights off his lawn.

Disputes over holiday displays go hand in hand with the annual tradition. One person's festive spirit can bring out the Grinch in others, leading to fines, strained relationships and — in rarer cases — lawsuits claiming that decorations have gone too far.

The Hyatts are the target of such a lawsuit: The city of Plantation, about 30 miles north of Miami, is seeking to shut down their display that it deems a public nuisance. The couple is not backing down.

"They believe it engenders goodwill and a bond between the community," said their Fort Lauderdale-based lawyer, James Helf.

In Plantation, Mark Hyatt, a mortgage banker and father of two, said he caught the decorating bug from his devout Catholic parents.

His family starts planning their "Hyatt Extreme Christmas" display in July, begins decorating in October and switches on the lights the day after Thanksgiving. On weekends in December, they welcome visitors inside the gates of their circle driveway for a close-up look at their collection, including a miniature Ferris wheel Hyatt built.

His neighbors are less enchanted. They say strangers knock on their doors asking to use the bathroom, cut through their property to see the display and leave trash in the street — complaints Hyatt contends are untrue or exaggerated.

Several residents on the cul-de-sac said they are forced to flee their homes when the crowds become unbearable.

Recent visitors were happy to see the lights still shining.

"It makes me feel like a kid again," said Chris Coburn, 37, of nearby Davie, Florida.

Dennis LaFrance, 40, who drove 30 minutes with his three kids to see the display, said he could understand the frustration of the Hyatts' neighbors. REUTERS

"I have kids who came here when they were little and now are coming back with their own kids," he said. "That's the coolest thing of all."

Mark Hyatt

BRIEF

Self-driving delivery robot could be Santa's new helper

Fleets of small autonomous robots could soon become a familiar presence on public pathways with the advent of ground-based drones that aim to improve local delivery of goods and groceries.

Former Skype co-founders have launched a new company, Starship Technologies, which is preparing to test their self-driving delivery robots in London. The as yet unnamed robots are small, safe, practical and free from CO_2 emissions, according to the developers.

"When you place your order online, as you do right now, but instead of getting the delivery by somebody coming up to your door and knocking on your door, you would get it by a robot," said Ahti Heinla, a Skype co-founder and CEO at Starship Technologies.

The robots can carry the equivalent of two bags of shopping and complete local deliveries in between five and 30 minutes from a designated hub or retail outlet. Heinla explained that the robots are not designed for long-distance orders, but for completing the final mile of a delivery. He said this puts the customer in control of their deliveries by allowing them to choose from a selection of short, precise delivery slots.

"When you as a consumer, when you find it convenient for you, you call up the delivery using your smartphone. And then the robot gets loaded with your parcel in our hub and it drives to your doorstep. And that takes about 20 minutes. So instead of having a delivery window of half a day or something that you're getting your delivery sometime during today; you can pick a delivery window that is like, 10 minutes," said Heinla. REUTERS

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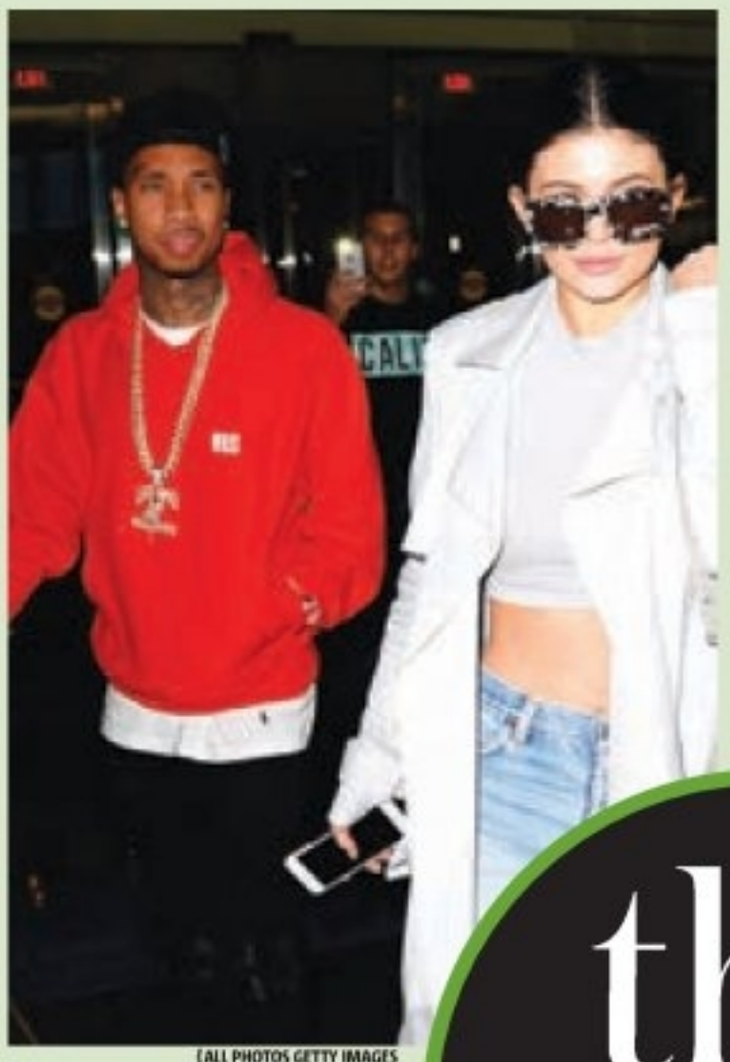

(ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

If Justin Bieber stalking a teen girl on social media was the start of a trend, he's going to have some explaining to do. Now, Kylie Jenner is reportedly peeved at on-again, off-again rapper boyfriend Tyga after catching him swapping texts with a 14-year-old female Instagram user. Yikes. And Jenner didn't take the revelation well, according to OK! magazine. "He broke down in tears and begged Kylie to tell him the truth about where they stand," a source says. "In the space of a week she's dumped him, got back with him, told the world they're getting married and then decided to 'cool things off' and threw him out. He's in a world of paranoia right now, especially after hearing that her mom wants him out and has been showing her pictures of other guys to date." Oh right, Kris Jenner. This is going to get super-classy.

Tina Fey cops to being a mean girl

Watching "Mean Girls" and the rest of Tina Fey's career — especially "30 Rock" — you'd think she became such an expert in mean girl behavior by being on the receiving end of their terribleness. You would be wrong. It turns out that Fey herself was totes a mean girl herself. Can you believe it? "I admit it openly," she tells the Edit. "That was a disease that had to be conquered. It's a bad coping mechanism, but when you feel less than — in high school, everyone feels less than everyone else for different reasons — in your mind it's a way of leveling the playing field. Though, of course, it's not. Saying something terrible about someone else does not actually level the playing field. If I meet a girl of 14 or 15 today who is that kind of girl, I am secretly, in my body, afraid. Even though I'm 45." This is so confusing, given Fey's whole Queen of the Underdogs status. I thought we had some nerd solidarity going, man. Next you'll tell me Carson Daly didn't really care what music videos I wanted to see for all those years.

the word

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DAILY VIDEO

Tina and Amy's dope squad

Maybe you think we've moved beyond Taylor Swift parodies, but you are sorely mistaken, especially since we hadn't gotten this piece of awesomeness yet: Tina Fey and Amy Poehler take on Swift's "Bad Blood" to break down what a real dope squad consists of: several nannies, the lady at the diner who remembers Poehler's soup order, their shared gynecologist. Oh, and Amy Schumer, who isn't necessarily totally thrilled to be there. They have indeed been told that they roll deep.

Amber Rose slams butt pad rumors

Amber Rose hears all that chatter you're making about how photos of her in tights last week seem to hint at some padding on her infamous rear, and she's having none of it. "LOL, I am not wearing booty pads," she wrote in a caption for an Instagram photo. "It's a full-body trainer that has thick lining in it for women's problem areas. I wear it when I work out. It keeps my skin tight and makes me sweat more." Thanks for that mental image.

Adele worried smoking would kill her

Adele is really proud of herself for no longer setting fire to tobacco — and with good reason — but it turns out she was eager to make the change because of some rather extreme fears. "If I'd carried on smoking, I'd probably have died from a smoking-related illness, and I think that's really bad," she tells the Mirror. "If I was dying from lung cancer, I would have potentially given it to myself, and that wouldn't be something I'd be proud of." I mean, firm but fair.

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ANTHONY CAMPUSANO

The multidimensional game of Moosh and Twist

These two "City Kids" are growing up fast.

CHRIS JORDAN
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Know this about Moosh and Twist: They can play ball.

The guys, both from Philly, recently posted a video on their YouTube channel of their defeat of Hoodie Allen and one of his crew during two-on-two basketball at West Chester University. Moosh was strong on the midrange jumpers, and Twist had some nice moves to the basket.

"We wound up beating them two games in a row, mostly for bragging rights, but they put up a video that made it look like they beat us," says Twist, aka Oliver Feighan.

"We're better than them," says Moosh, aka DeQuincy Coleman-McRae. "We take basketball seriously."

On the topic of hoops, the sorry state of the Sixers doesn't lessen their support for the home team.

"We love the Sixers, no matter what," Twist says. "We're supposed to do something in the future with them, a little charity basketball for the kids."

A teenaged Moosh and Twist hit the scene with 2010's "City Kids," a burst of effervescence and street slyness that sampled Journey and was viewed more than 1.5 million times on YouTube. Since then, it's been a steady stream of releases, national tours and even a trip to Europe.

"It was pretty sick — it was life-changing," says Moosh, who notes that a show in Paris was an especially big hit. "People were loving us — it was monumental."

Now the guys are readying a mixtape release for the new year that will be available on iTunes. They just shot a video for it last week in Toronto and will shoot another one in Los Angeles. Their recent track, "Whoa," an infectious club banger, indicates the guys' musical horizons are broadening. They're not teenagers anymore.

> *"We've grown up in front of our fans' eyes. We were little kids, and now we're little grown men."*
> Twist

"We can do a plethora of things," Moosh says. "We're showing off our skills; we're crossing genres."

"We've grown up in front of our fans' eyes," adds Twist, who like Moosh, is 22. "We were little kids, and now we're little grown men."

So expect some grown-folks themes from Moosh and Twist. Before then, it's a special "Back to the Future" show Wednesday at the Fillmore Philadelphia.

"It'll be throwbacks and songs we're doing now," Twist says. "We're excited."

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10 Best nonhuman

Humans are overrated. There were many great performances in the movies this year, but less covered have been the performances by nonhumans, be they animal or animated.

MATT PRIGGE

1. BB-8, "STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS"

For the prequels, George Lucas made "Star Wars" digital, and anything that wasn't an actual human was created in a computer. "The Force Awakens" goes back to basics, not only shooting on actual film but actually hand-making certain characters. Amongst the real ones is its own mini-R2D2: a little guy or girl who's two balls excitably rolling about, bleep-blooping up a storm. The new "Star Wars" has its problems, but BB-8 is, in Internet-speak, everything.

2. SHAUN THE SHEEP, "SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE"

The English stop-motion animation house Aardman can always be counted on to design incredible creatures with big eyes, bigger teeth and a killer sense of timing. Shaun, the sheep from the TV show and movie spinoff named after him, follows in the footsteps of their greatest creation, Gromit (of "Wallace and," obvs), communicating loads without ever saying a word. He's grumpy ball of equal parts wonder and irritation, friendly for screengrabs to denote a rainbow of moods.

3. AVA, "EX MACHINA"

She's played by a human, and she looks human (partially), and she even seems human (sometimes). But Ava, the A.I. humanoid in this brainy chunk of sci-fi, is not human. Alicia Vikander's superbly delicate performance walks the line between fake and real so well even we, like the mousy programmer (Domhnall Gleeson) tasked with Turing testing her, can come to see her as flesh and bone, even if the only things that look real are her face and hands.

4. ARLO THE APATOSAURUS, "THE GOOD DINOSAUR"

"The Good Dinosaur" will become Pixar's lowest-ever grosser, but we'd like to make a case for its star. Arlo is a runt of a dino and a real scaredy-cat. And though his arc is stock zero-to-semi-hero, he's beautifully designed and voiced. He seems like a real, frightened kid, in part because he's voiced by a real, frightened-sounding kid: Raymond Ochoa.

5. LOLABELLE, "HEART OF A DOG"

We're all for cats, but dogs — bundles of energy, emotionally binary — are a little more film-friendly. That goes duoble for the rat terrier seen in Laurie Anderson's semiexperimental doc. The film is partly about Lolabelle's passing, but her memory, and many adorbs dog videos, lives on in the film.

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film characters of 2015

6. BUNZO, "KUMIKO THE TREASURE HUNTER"

Admittedly Bunzo, the rabbit in this unusual indie, doesn't do much. He's the very self-reliant pet of the movie's very self-reliant hero, Tokyo loner Kumiko (Rinko Kichuchi), who is so cut off from her fellow humans that when she happens upon a beat-up VHS copy of "Fargo," she thinks its tale of buried treasure is real and seeks to find it. That means ditching her only friend as she travels. Poor Bunzo.

7. SADNESS, 'INSIDE OUT'

Pixar again! It's tempting to go with Bing Bong, the tragic imaginary friend in their pretty gutting peek inside the mind of a little girl undergoing a brutal adolescence. But as with "The Good Dinosaur," we're a little more in league with the downer character voiced by "The Office's" Phyllis Smith, the embodiment of one of the kid's four chief emotions. She's frustrating but necessary, just like real sadness.

8. PADDINGTON, "PADDINGTON"

Colin Firth originally voiced Michael Bond's beloved sentient stuffed bear, but the film just didn't work. And so the makers got Ben Whishaw. That did it. It's a fit as smooth as a good jar of marmalade.

9. HAGEN, "WHITE GOD"

We're not a fan of this keyed-up Hungarian drama about a dog who shuffles between various abusive owners and captors. But we are totally about its canine lead. We'd love to even vote his two

actors, Bodie and Luke, in end-of-year acting polls. It's not easy getting strong dog performances, especially in a film so mean to its nonhuman stars. Bonus: Bodie and Luke have hilarious IMDb trivia pages, each of which simply read "Is a dog."

10. THE BANKER BROS., "THE BIG SHORT"

Arguably the scariest scene in "The Big Short" finds our good banker heroes encountering some bad bankers — specifically two giggly bros (Max Greenfield and Billy Magnussen) who can't wait to tell them about all the poor people and immigrants to whom they knowingly sold bad loans, fully aware they wouldn't be able to make their payments. "They're not confessing," points out one of our protagonists. "They're bragging." Luckily no flesh-and-blood human being would screw over not only innocent people but the world economy as well.

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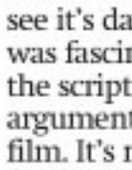
Gugu Mbatha-Raw scores a touchdown

The "Belle" and "Beyond the Lights" actress learns about American football with "Concussion."



MATT PRIGGE
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Gugu Mbatha-Raw plays Prema, wife of Will Smith's struggling pathologist in "Concussion," which opens Friday.
COLUMBIA PICTURES

Gugu Mbatha-Raw is not American, so "Concussion" was really her first exposure to America's most popular sport: football. The drama tells the true story of Bennet Omalu (played by Will Smith), a Nigerian pathologist who tried to warn the NFL of safety issues. The British actress — and a current "it" girl, thanks to her lead turns in "Belle" and "Beyond the Lights" — plays Prema, Omalu's spouse, but Mbatha-Raw says she's not just your one-note supportive wife.

The movie is very harsh about the NFL and football, but it does try to argue for it, too. What is your take on football?
For me the danger is always obvious: You can't watch the game and not see it's dangerous. But it was fascinating the way the script constructed this argument. It's a balanced film. It's not against football. You get to see and appreciate the beauty in the game and all of the wonderful benefits: the pride it brings out of people, the sense of unity and community.

Prema's not just The Wife. It's clear they're a team.
Absolutely. Before Prema came into his life, Bennet's world was all science — all autopsies and dead bodies. She comes into his world and brings a real sense of humanity and an emotional support system and a spirituality. It's a spiritual film on many levels, in terms of how Bennet and Prema's faith really guided them to survive the bullying that went on. That combination of science and faith is something you don't often see.

GETTY IMAGES

About "Beyond the Lights"

Mbatha-Raw starred in the backstage melodrama "Beyond the Lights," one of last year's best films. It should have been huge, but it underperformed. But Mbatha-Raw says it may live on via home video.
"People constantly mention it to me," she tells us. "I know that Lena Dunham tweeted that it replaced 'Clueless' as her favorite chill-out afternoon relax movie. People are definitely talking about it, which is wonderful. Movies are not just about opening weekends. It's about having a life beyond that. I think it will find its audience."

This is one of Will Smith's serious movies. He seems like a goofball in real life.
Don't be fooled by that. He works incredibly hard. Will's natural personality is very effervescent and playful, but as an actor, he shows his range, especially in this movie. He has a great balance in terms of taking the work seriously but not taking himself seriously.

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New on Netflix

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"ABOUT A BOY"

Hugh Grant and a young Nicholas Hoult bro out in "About a Boy." PROVIDED

Hugh Grant is one of those actors who doesn't get why people like him, which partially explains why he's done fewer than 10 movies since 2002's "About a Boy." It's a shame: Not only is Grant retro charming, but this dramedy — about a middle-aged rich kid (Grant) bonding with a latchkey actual kid (Nicholas Hoult) — seemed like a watershed moment for an actor who had been typecast as either stammering rom-com heroes or jerks. "Boy" takes some big licenses with the Nick Hornby source, including completely ditching the Kurt Cobain-centered third act. But it's really driven by Grant's deeply felt performance, conveying his character's growing self-hatred at the non-life he's created for himself, which proves touching without being cloying. Ditto the rest of it.

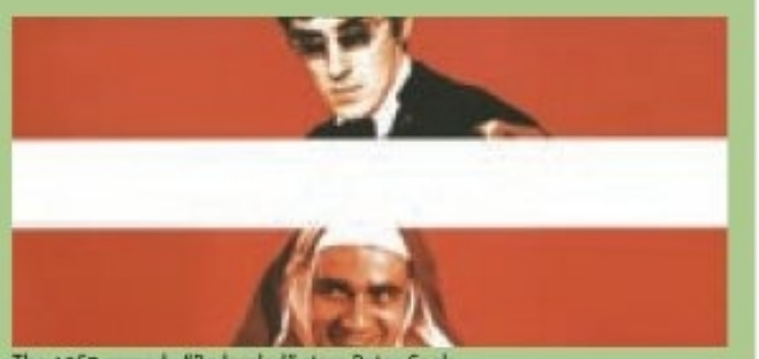
"PHOENIX"

Nina Hoss gives one of 2015's best performances in "Phoenix," playing a concentration camp survivor worming her way into her old lover's life. IFC FILMS

One of the year's best films, this German drama features plastic surgery, fortune hunting and a transformation right out of "Vertigo." But "Phoenix" never seems preposterous, and always comes off cool and quietly devastating. Nina Hoss' Nelly is severely disfigured by her time in a concentration camp and finds herself, post-WWII, cozying up to the lover (Ronald Zehrfeld) who betrayed her to the Nazis. He doesn't recognize her, but he still involves her in a scheme to fleece her old family for an inheritance. Like his star, director Christian Petzold ("Barbara") keeps everything close to the vest, patiently building to a final scene that blows the lid off, and how.

"BEDAZZLED"

No one remembers the 2000 remake of this 1967 comedy, right? The one with Brendan Fraser as a palooka who gets some romantic aid by Satan herself (Elizabeth Hurley)? Good. Bad redos can tarnish brands, especially ones as rarified and odd as the first big movie for comedy duo Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, and the only one, alas, of any note. Sprightly and grouchy, "Bedazzled" also boasts Stanley Donen as its director, who by the late '60s had moved from the elegance of "Singin' in the Rain" and "Royal Wedding" to quasi-experimental, giddily adopting such modern tics as crazy zooms and hyper-cutting. The episode where Cook's devilish Spiggott transports Moore's Stanley into a live black-and-white music revue TV show features some of the era's most dazzling uses of the Cinemascope-shaped space.



The 1967 comedy "Bedazzled" stars Peter Cook as Satan and Dudley Moore as his prey. PROVIDED

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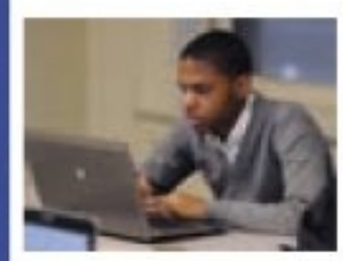

SARAH STACKE

Mmachi O. Dimoriaku speaks at a Moth StorySLAM for high schoolers in New York City. JASON FALCHOOK

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Tips for nailing any kind of presentation from The Moth

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How to master the art of storytelling.

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From TED Talks to podcasts to Moth SLAMS, our culture is obsessed with storytelling. But sharing one's personal narrative isn't just a way to entertain a group of strangers and friends: It's also a vital skill. Whether you're an entrepreneur pitching your business idea in front of would-be investors, a freelancer going to a networking party or a college senior writing a cover letter for your first job, being able to tell an engaging personal story will help you stand out from the pack.

As co-founder of the Moth's education program, Micaela Blei knows how to get the best stories out of even the most reticent individuals. The former teacher and two-time GrandSLAM champion coaches New York City adolescents — not exactly the most vocal bunch of humans — to open up about their lives in front of strangers, teachers, parents and, perhaps most terrifying, their peers. And to great success.

"We've seen our students take their Moth stories and do exciting things with them," she says. "A few have taken the transcript of their story and edited it into a college essay. And one student took audio of her story and made it into a film that she later submitted to the TriBeCa Film Festival — and won."

We asked Blei for her tips on how to tell a great story, for the next time you have to give a presentation, impress at a job interview or write an essay.

Talk it out

When giving a presentation it's important to sound natural. You want to draw people in, communicate with them, and the best way to do that isn't by writing a speech and memorizing it. "Sharing a story as yourself isn't performing a monologue," says Blei. Instead, try to tell your story into a tape recorder — or in front of a friend — and refine it from there. "Make a bullet-point list of what's going to happen so you can stay on track, but don't write out the whole thing." (Blei recommends saying your story when writing personal essays too, to help give them that intimate feel.)

Be vulnerable

Listeners respond to those with whom they can empathize, so don't try to mask your insecurities or faults. Be honest in your story, of course, but admit it or make a joke about it if you're feeling nervous or if you trip up. "It's OK to be scared; it's a scary thing you're doing," says Blei. "And if you tell the audience what you're feeling, they will be on your side and root for you."

End with a bang

You definitely want to start strong, of course, but you should leave your audience pumped up, inspired and on a strong note. "You don't have to tie your story up with a perfect little bow," says Blei. "But you don't want to peter out. Follow your bullet points so you don't lose sight of your conclusion."

Should you get an online degree?

Five things to consider before pursuing a virtual education.

RAQUEL LANERI
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raquel.laneri@metro.us

Make sure an online program is accredited before registering. ISTOCK

More and more people are enrolling in online degree programs — for good reason.

"The great thing about online degrees is that there's flexibility," says Emily Bartz, content manager at consumer research group NextAdvisor.com. "Everyone has a lot of different things going on — whether that's taking care of a family member or working two jobs. Online education is a great avenue for someone who is committed to getting a degree but can't go to school 9 to 5."

We asked Bartz for the top things prospective students should do before enrolling.

Find a program that fits your needs

"So many online colleges cater to specific needs and interests," says Bartz. That applies to lifestyle demands as well asspecific areas of study. For example, Bartz cites American Intercontinental University as a great option for those in the military. Not only are 1 in 3 of AIU's students military-affiliated, but the school offers military scholarships and allows students to count their military training and experience as credit.

Apply for scholarships

Just like traditional brick-and-mortar schools, online institutions can vary in price — and they're not free. "Sure, you're going to save online, but it is a college education," says Bartz. Even if your dream program falls outside your price point, you could still make it work. "There are tons of scholarships, even for online colleges."

Talk to professors beforehand

"The great thing about online colleges is that even if you aren't meeting your professor in-person, you can get in contact with them before classes start and address some of your concerns," says Bartz. "It's also a great way to figure out if you like the professor or really do want to take that course."

Make sure the school is accredited

It can be tempting to go for the cheapest option if you don't have a big budget. But as online education has gotten more popular, programs offering fake, nonaccredited diplomas have popped up with alarming frequency.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Education has a database of accredited universities. "Just type in any name and it will tell you right away," says Bartz.

Work hard

While online education may be more flexible, more accommodating and more affordable, it's hardly a walk in the park. "There's this misconception that online college is easier, but that is not true," says Bartz. "It can be more convenient, but it still requires focus and attention."

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The Phillies cut their odds of winning the 2016 World Series in half in just a month. On Nov. 2, Las Vegas had the Phillies at 200-1 to win it all next season. Last week, Sin City reduced the Phillies odds of winning the whole thing eight years after their last championship to "just" 100-1.

Who needs Ken Giles or a closer for that matter?

The sobering reality is that no team has worse than 100-1 odds to win the World Series next year. But Vegas is on the money about one thing: The Phillies have improved since dealing the flamethrowing Giles.

But let's go back even further. There's little doubt the Phillies are better now than they were one year ago.

The Phillies starting staff is actually respectable. A potential rotation of Aaron Nola, Vincent Velasquez, Charlie Morton, Jeremy Hellickson and Jared Eickhoff is an improvement over last year's model, which included Cole Hamels and little else. Add outfielder Peter Bourjos exceptional defense and the Phillies could have a surprisingly good runs against mark.

The Phillies bullpen is loaded with question marks but perhaps veteran relievers Andrew Bailey and Edward Mujica, who signed minor league contracts with invitations to big league camp, can make a difference. Each were All-Star closers. The former, a Haddonfield native was one of the best closers in baseball from 2009-11 but has struggled with injuries since 2012.

Aaron Nola is the key to the Phillies success moving forward. GETTY IMAGES

Mujica has been erratic.

There is hope for the future since the Phillies are almost free of bad contracts. Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz are off the books after next season. Matt Harrison is done after 2017. This sets the Phillies up perfectly for the historic free agent class of 2018. Bryce Harper, Clayton Kershaw, Matt Harvey and Jose Fernandez are just some of the talent that could be out there. By then, the odds are that the Marlins will look to deal Giancarlo Stanton, who will no longer be affordable.

Not all of the Phillies prospects will pan out, but if just Franco, J.P. Crawford and Nick Williams become impact players and if the Phillies nail it by selecting a future ace in the 2016 draft, well then, the Phillies are in an enviable position.

"The Phillies are doing a good job landing prospects," a NL scout said. "They're stockpiling arms, which is the way to go. Looking ahead, they're going to have the money and most importantly the flexibility to land some serious ballplayers, just as their kids mature."

Money certainly talks in major league baseball. The Phillies signed a pair of aces, Cliff Lee and Cole Hamels, who left money on the table in order to sign with the team of their choice. However, Hamels and Lee are outliers.

Zack Greinke, who has yet to win a World Series, spurned the Dodgers, who thought he would return to win it all with LA, but he went with the most years and money with the Diamondbacks.

"When the time comes, the Phillies will be ready to land a big fish, an NL scout said. "They're making progress. Who would have thought they would have come this far at this time last year? Their farm is in much better shape than it was last year."

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Can rookie revolution save Philly sports?

All four major sports teams in Philadelphia boast a bright young star who could be the future face of a franchise.

EVAN MACY
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You've probably heard people say "the future" looks bright ad nauseam about Philadelphia's sports teams.

Each squad has been going through growing pains as the Flyers attempt to start a new era of competitiveness, the Eagles battle to win the worst conference in football and the 76ers and Phillies attempt to completely overhaul their rosters in historic rebuilds.

But each team currently seems to have a radar-worthy rookie who could, potentially, anchor the future of each of Philly's franchises. Here's a brief look into the future stars of Philly sports:

EAGLES

Jordan Hicks, linebacker

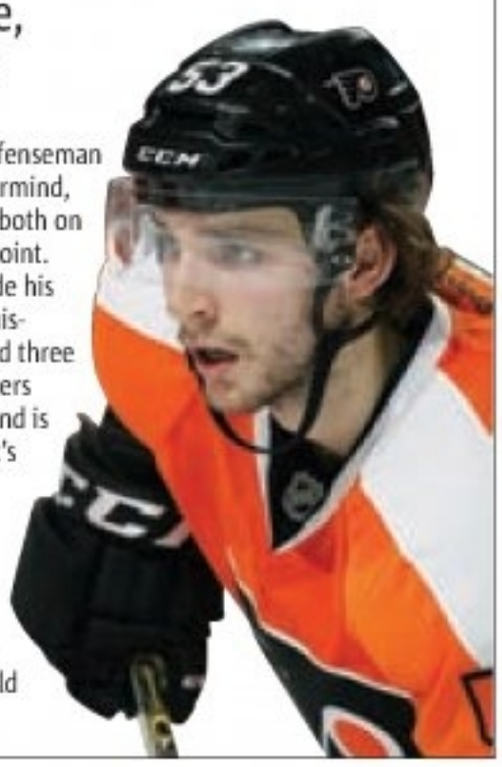
The Birds' rookie inside linebacker was the team's leading tackled and gaining a lot of steam before his season-ending injury against the Cowboys in November ended his freshman campaign.

The third-rounder out of Texas was even calling the plays before he went down, filling in admirably for the revolving door at inside linebacker with DeMeco Ryans, Kiko Alonso and Mychal Kendricks each nursing early season injuries.

In addition to 50 tackles, Hicks had two interceptions (including a pick-six), a forced fumble and fumble recovery. He'll certainly be a main piece for the Eagles upon his return in 2016.

FLYERS

Shayne Gostisbehere, defenseman



The Flyers' rookie defenseman is an offensive mastermind, looking comfortable both on the rush and at the point. And though he's made his share of first-timer mistakes, he's also netted three overtime game-winners already this season and is one of Claude Giroux's favorite targets.

Ghost has six goals and six assists in 16 games thus far in 2015-16 and has been everything the Flyers hoped he would be and more.

PHILLIES

Maikel Franco, third baseman

It's been a long time since the Phillies had an all-around third baseman they could trust. Perhaps not since Mike Schmidt have Philadelphia baseball fans really had a man at the hot corner with as much potential as Franco, who batted .280 and had 50 RBIs before injury woes sidelined him late summer.

If healthy, Franco not only possesses a sure glove at third, but also yields a bat that could be the cornerstone of Philly's lineup for years. The 23-year-old has pop and can hit for average and has the positive energy and drive fans came to know and love in the 2008 World Series squad.

76ERS

Jahlil Okafor, center

The kid from Chicago has had his share of growing pains, but at 20 years old, it's hard to blame him. Despite a few off-court issues (including some altercations in Boston that earned him a two-game suspension), the 6-foot-11 third-overall pick is averaging a hair under 18 points and eight rebounds per game.

The Sixers continue to struggle, but Okafor has proven he can be a productive player offensively and a double-double machine in the future.

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Redskins win, Giants lose as NFC East hunt heats up

The Redskins can win and get in next week after beating the Bills on Sunday.

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The Eagles-Redskins showdown in Week 16 will likely decide the division winner. GETTY IMAGES

In a game that looked done and dusted at the start of the fourth quarter, the Panthers faced the stiffest test to their undefeated season yet., 38-35. Cam Newton (25-of-45, 340, 5 TDs, 100 yards rushing) threw five touchdowns for the third time in his last five games while the Panthers built a 35-7 lead.

Heated competition between Josh Norman and Odell Beckham Jr. boiled over in the third quarter when Beckham landed a late helmet-to-helmet hit on Norman and the two combined for three personal fouls over two plays.

Beckham remained in the game, and caught the tying touchdown pass one play after an Eli Manning fumble was overturned. Rashad Jennings, who had his best game of the season with 107 yards, scored on a 38-yard touchdown run as the Giants scored 28 straight points.

In the final 1:46, the Panthers took the ball 49 yards to set up a 43-yard Graham Gano field goal. Gano, who had missed earlier on the day, was true, and the Panthers remained an undefeated 14-0.

Redskins 35, Bills 25
Kirk Cousins (22-of-28, 319, 4 TDs) threw four touchdowns, two to Jordan Reed, and ran for another as Washington survived a comeback attempt by the Bills. DeSean Jackson had a 77-yard touchdown catch on his way to 153 yards and a touchdown in his first 100-yard effort of 2015.

Texans 16, Colts 10
The Texans may have lost T.J. Yates for the season, as they wait to see if he suffered a torn ACL against Indianapolis, but they took control of the division on a 90-yard fourth quarter drive led by Brandon Weeden. The drive finished with an 8-yard touchdown reception by rookie Jaelen Strong.

Chiefs 34, Ravens 14
The Kansas City defense was in fine form, scoring on a 73-yard fumble return and 90-yard interception return against Baltimore. Charcandrick West kicked the game off with a 38-yard touchdown run and got the lion's share of the carries the rest of the way.

Vikings 38, Bears 17
Teddy Bridgewater (17-of-20, 231, 4 TDs) had the best game of his young career as the Vikings took an unusual path to victory against the Bears — the air. Bridgewater had exactly one game with more than one touchdown pass this season prior to Sunday, when he threw four and ran for another score to beat Chicago.

Patriots 33, Titans 16
Marcus Mariota left the game with a knee injury in the second quarter and did not return. He was replaced by Zach Mettenberger who brought the Titans back into the game after the Patriots had built a 24-3 lead at halftime by throwing two touchdowns to Delanie Walker.

Falcons 23, Jaguars 17
The Falcons won for the first time in seven games while the Jaguars failed to capitalize on the momentum they built last week beating the Colts 51-16. Devonta Freeman, once the NFL's hottest running back while the Falcons rolled out to a 6-1 start, had a touchdown run for the first time since Week 6 to open the scoring Sunday.

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w/ or w/out title
500.00 CASH $$$
For Any Junk Cars or Trucks
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MISCELLANEOUS

$$$$ Diabetic Test Strips Needed $$$$
Also nicoderm CQ patches. Will Pay up to $40 per box. Will pick-up.
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SO CALL NOW
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CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
Also Buying
Smoking patches & gum
Hours M-F 8:30-3:30 • Sat: 10-2pm
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267-275-1717
www.dollarsforstrips.com

$$ CASH PAID $$
BUYING NICOTINE PATCHES / GUM and Diabetic Test Strips
We Pickup
215-395-7100

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Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 6, 2016
@ 5:00 PM
1840 Torresdale Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19124

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Always a Cash Deal
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Medium & Psychic
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- No CDL required!
- Paid Training Provided - Classes Forming Now!

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215-743-9700

www.mvtransit.com

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Experienced Road Supervisors Needed

Must have some paratransit experience. To apply call

215-992-8000 ext. 4

Apply In Person or Go To: www.EdensTransit.com

Edens Transit

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For Immediate Start
$15/hr avg Paid weekly
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Is looking for nursing staff.
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Go to our website to apply
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NEED CASH?

$ BUYING Diabetic Test Strips, Nicotine Patches/Gum $

215-425-7897

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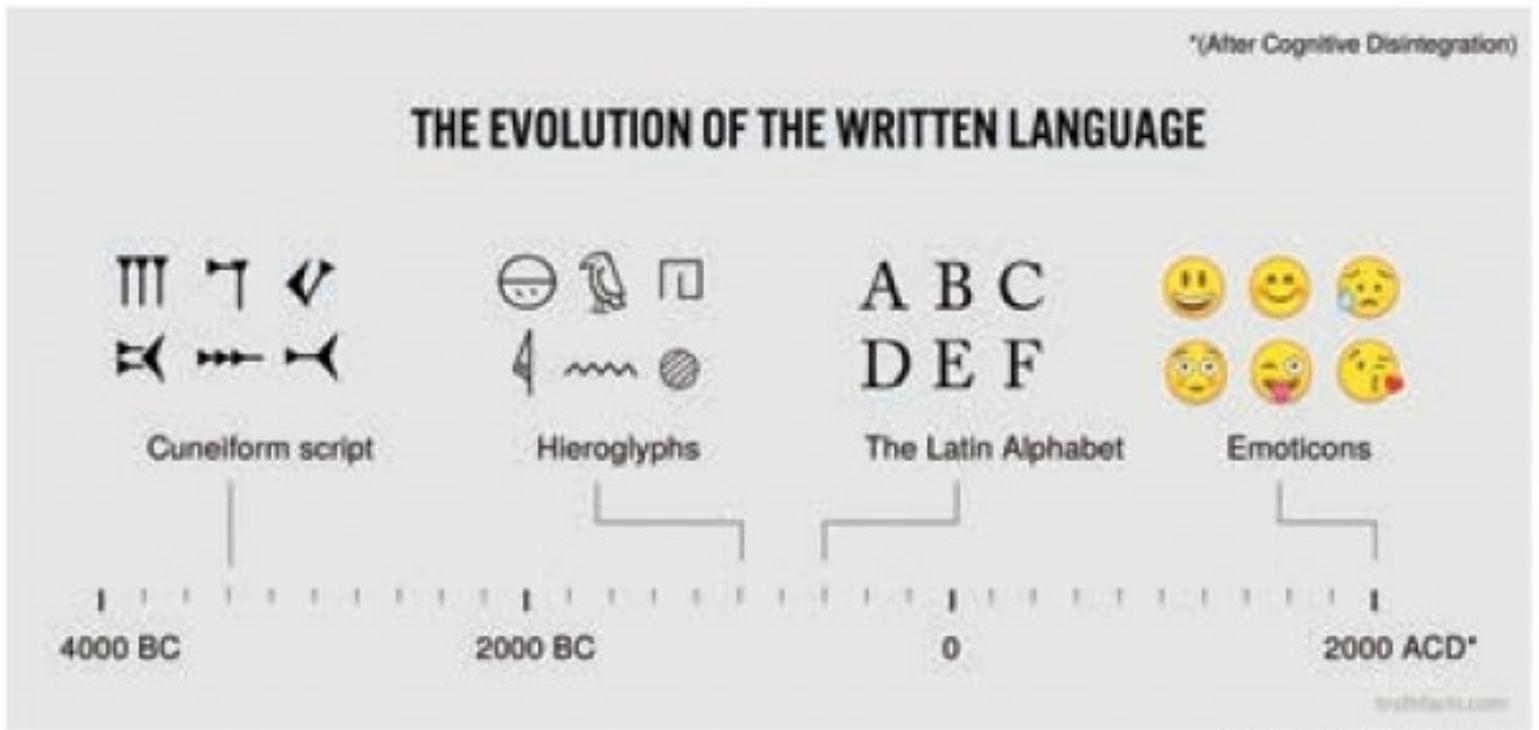

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BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

metro.us/crossword

Across

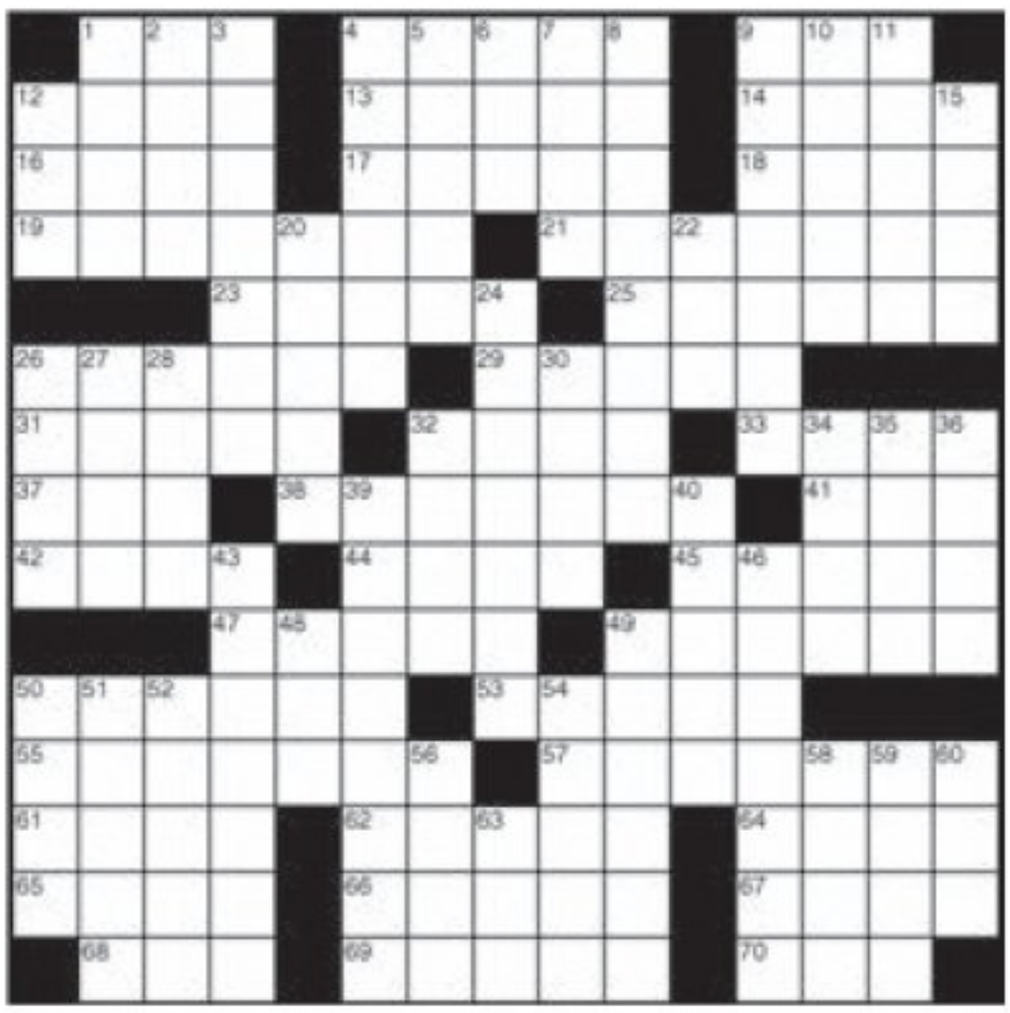
1 In the know
4 Kind of cake
9 Billiard stick
12 Wrestling style
13 Foul-up
14 Ant horde
16 Joie de vivre
17 Argot
18 Shoestring
19 Is game (2 wds.)
21 High, as a river
23 Blooms
25 Gets smart with
26 Milady's escort
29 Zen master's poem
31 Russian pancakes
32 Fossil impression
33 Do road work
37 Chatty alien of TV
38 Smelly stuff
41 Shadowy
42 Fastest jets
44 Mix batter
45 Indy 500 sound
47 Dilate
49 Picayune
50 Gauguin's island
53 Morning —
55 Put up with
57 Got too big
61 Hair treatment
62 Rest stop sight
64 Nope (hyph.)
65 Compos mentis
66 Needle or rib
67 Successor to Claudius
68 Mal de —
69 Organic compound
70 — Paulo

Down

1 Storytelling dance
2 "— — Old Cowhand"
3 Seaplane part
4 Hailed on
5 Easy-to-find constellation
6 Coffee brewer
7 Eggy drinks
8 Very sleepy
9 Telephones (2 wds.)

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, VISIT metro.us/games

10 Europe-Asia divider
11 Philbin or Sajak
12 Do alterations
15 Urges
20 Bit of mistletoe
22 Hard wood
24 "Whole" thing
26 Business degs.
27 Pandora's boxful
28 London elevator
30 Trapped like — —
32 Complimentary
34 Hubbubs
35 Strad
36 Tube trophy
39 Step down, in a way
40 Turn inside out
43 Lifeguard
46 Sci-fi weapons (2 wds.)
48 Give — — whirl
49 Working cat
50 Bakers' meas.
51 Elite squad (hyph.)
52 Jazzy Lena —
54 Baggy
56 Tints
58 Ms. Perlman of "Cheers"
59 Drachma's successor
60 What and where's partner
63 Edge a doily



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Last Word Standing

Use the clues to cross out the words in the boxes. One word will be left over. This last word standing is the mystery answer.

CLUES:
All words from the Pledge of Allegiance
All NFL mascots
All citrus fruits
All state symbols of Massachusetts
All chemical elements
All palindromes
All words that contain 'old'
All words of ten letters

Neon		Tenet
Chickadee	Manifold	Chandelier
Rowdy	Tangelo	Efficient
Under	Rampage	Radon
Kayak	Iron	Unfolding
Lemon	Cod	Orange
Golden	Republic	Negotiable
Flag	Rotor	Toro
Substitute		Liberty

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CAC

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easy

			2	4			3	8
6				5		9		
2			9				4	
8		1					6	7
	2						8	
4	5					3		9
	8				9			4
		5		1				2
7	6			8	4			

hard

						3	6	
	2							8
8		6	9	7	2			
		5		9	1		3	
	6		2		7		9	
	1		6	8		7		
			1	4	9	5		3
4							8	
	5	3						

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Avoid any type of dispute that has the potential to end in insult or injury. Discipline and controlled changes will bring the best results.

Taurus You'll have plenty to offer. Your co-workers will value your input. A job opening will grab your interest. Vie for the position before it's too late.

Gemini Be observant and listen carefully. You don't want to be left out of the loop, especially if it could affect your chance to get ahead.

Cancer Prepare for upcoming festivities. Favors will be granted and someone you love will have a welcome surprise for you.

Leo Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't willing to compromise. Don't view meeting someone halfway as a loss when in truth it's a new beginning.

Virgo Reunite with old friends. Look for ways to please the ones you love. Pick up last-minute items.

Libra Legal, contractual or medical matters are best tended to before everyone breaks for the holidays. Tie up loose ends and put your mind at ease.

Scorpio Romance is on the rise, and future plans can be made. Travel plans will give you incentive to get unfinished business out of the way.

Sagittarius Don't leave anything unfinished, so you can enjoy a little downtime. Mixing business with pleasure will lead to great allies in the new year.

Capricorn Enjoy spending time with children or loved ones. Don't let the hectic pace of the season lead you to neglect what's most important to you.

Aquarius Someone's generosity or deep interest in your actions will be driven by ulterior motives. Make changes based on what you want.

Pisces Do something nice in order to set a standard for friends and family to follow. Your intuition will help you make the right choice. EUGENIA LAST

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WHY
THE MORE WE'LL KNOW
HOW

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- ✓ Study-related care from a local doctor
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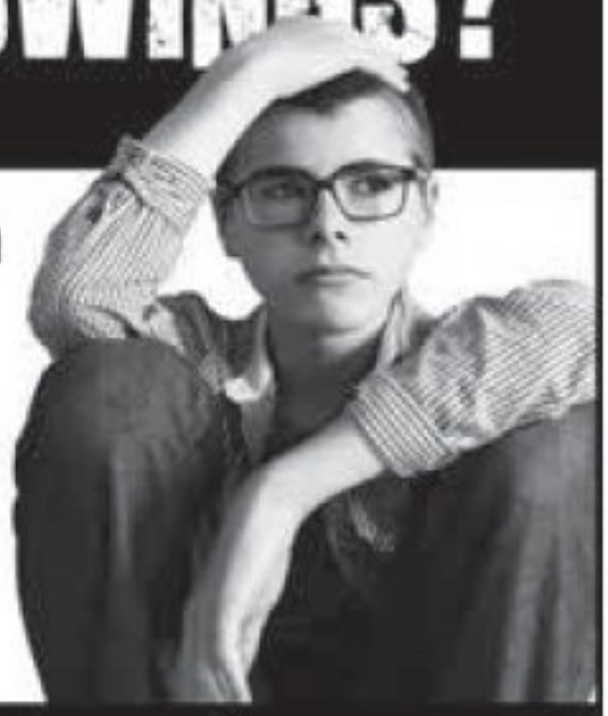

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